

Maryland Council on Open Data

Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2017

10AM - Noon

100 Community Place

Crownsville, MD 21032

Introductions (10 mins)

Opening Remarks (10 mins)

- Prepared remarks from Mike Morello
- At the start the focus of Maryland's Open Data Portals was about getting datasets onto the Portal.
 - Then we worked on what datasets we could automate getting onto the Portal
 - We also focused on the data quality of the datasets being updated on the Portal
 - When the Portal was first created a few years ago, we did not focus on the number of Portal users or what they were looking at or exporting on the Portal. Consistent with a typical maturity model, it is now time for us in 2017 to start to better understand the Portal's user community and their needs. When we get requests for new datasets, we have done a very good job at getting them onto the Portal so we know we have been meeting our users' requests. However, we also want to better understand what people are searching for on the Portal, what they are exporting, and what the overall site stats look like. We will start providing this information in future Open Data Council meetings.

Question: What are the next steps and directions?

- GOPI in 2017 is looking to increase usage and adoption of Open Data Portals, need to determine
 - o Who are the users?
 - o What datasets are most valuable?
 - o What areas do we need to target to strengthen the Portals?
- Volume of data - balance of burden of data collection, strike a balance between enabling missions and the value of the data that is collected and provides to a larger audience

News Items & Updates (30 mins)

Leadership Updates

- Council Chair is named, in statute, as the Secretary of the Department of Information Technology
- Michael Leahy has recently been named the Acting Secretary of the Department of Information Technology
- Email is michael.leahy@maryland.gov
- Thrilled with the opportunity to work with this group
- Open door policy - any aspects of the tasks moving forward that should be brought to Mike's attention, methodologies that need attention or changes for the future, he would be interested to hear from you
- Learned a lot about how the state has chosen to do things and have some ideas of my own
- Background: Technical Exec, Attorney, Investment Banker in Telecommunications and BioTechnology
- Spend a couple of years, in the public sector, each decade
- Goal is to find tools to make it easier to make data available
- Day-to-day the world has become complex and has lost the fundamental principles
- An informed public is the strongest asset of a republic, give people tools to think about how to analyze

information, let the market of the citizenry use the data, find relationships, bring things to the government's attention

Open Data Portal Product Announcements –

A) Subscribe directly for updates

- Can subscribe to the updates and not be dependent on Josh Exler to provide these updates to the group
- Comes through the <http://data.maryland.gov> interface or through email for those with Open Data Portal logins

B) Changes to the log-in page

- Log-in page has changed security protocols have been updated, looking into single sign-on, which is already being used for the <http://data.imap.maryland.gov> open data site, anyone with a maryland.gov email

C) Changes to visualization tools

- Rolling out new visualization tools, easier to group and filter data as being visualized, streamlined
- Option to use these tools as technical preview mode for those with log-ins
- No clarification yet as to when these will be launched and the impact to current visualizations
- Current plan is to maintain old visualizations with the option to convert to these new visualizations
- Internal navigation menus will be updated, UI changes anticipated

D) Socrata product being rebranded

- Socrata Open Data Portal is being rebranded as “Publica”
- We will have to edit supporting documentation and websites in order to adopt this change

E) Updated design for dataset landing pages

- New design of landing page for each dataset, including metadata on a single page, almost like a summary page for each dataset, rather than the data tables as the first impression

Dataset Freshness Dashboard (Demo) / Dataset Analytics

- Posing the question to the Council of what are the best metrics for tracking usage and data quality
- Possibilities for tracking measures, what would be the most appropriate
- Developers might have a more technical bias for what is to be tracked, we want to open the floor as to what we should be looking at
- Report is a supplementary data catalog for the site, users can view many details about the data resources, most importantly about how often the data should be updated and whether those update schedules are being followed
- Rely on fields to find out when the data has been changed, not just the metadata, but attributes themselves, running JavaScript to track some other aspects of updating
- Trying to incorporate this information into the report and associated dashboard
- Dashboard uses the information being generated daily, aggregate data by contributing agency
- Recommend that this dashboard is available for regular review by the contributing agencies
- Freshness date and frequency, how often is this reviewed, updates
- Moving toward a mature system, we have collected “low hanging fruit”, those other datasets that will take more time to collect, those that are not being used, but we still take time to collect, we can redirect those resources for data that can be far more valuable

Launch of GIS Data Catalog 2.0 (Demo)

<http://data.imap.maryland.gov>

- Updated version of Maryland's geospatial-oriented open data portal
- Based on Esri platform and recently released update to the existing ArcGIS Open Data product
- Most dramatic changes occurred on the homepage, with the look and feel, still provides ease for data search
- More responsive than previous versions, works better on mobile devices
- Scroll down the homepage to find information on other aspects of the GIS and Open Data enterprise platform
 - Featured Datasets
 - Maps and Applications using open data
 - Statewide GIS Training Program
 - Maryland's Non-Spatial Open Data Portal – <http://data.maryland.gov>
- Ultimately expect to incorporate portals and hubs of areas of interest within this homepage to increase ease of access and cross promotion across the GIS and Open Data enterprise platform

Julia Fischer

Maryland's GIS Data


data.imap.maryland.gov

AppsREST URLsStateGISPortalsConnect Maryland

Other bookmarks

Maryland GIS Data Catalog

My DataSign InSign Up



Maryland GIS Data Catalog



















Geospatial Open Data

Quickly search for the latest data and geographic content from Maryland contributors. Use keyword or geographic searches to find and quickly display content. Maryland is committed to being open, transparent and providing data that is easy to find, is accessible, and is usable.

Find Data

Search by Dataset Name or Location

Explore Data Categories

 <p>Agriculture</p>	 <p>Biota</p>	 <p>Boundaries</p>	 <p>Business Economy</p>	 <p>Demographics</p>	 <p>Education</p>
 <p>Elevation</p>	 <p>Environment</p>	 <p>Geoscientific</p>	 <p>Health</p>	 <p>Historic</p>	 <p>Hydrology</p>
					

Explore More Maps & Apps

Statewide GIS Training Program

The State of Maryland has implemented a statewide GIS Training program designed to offer Maryland State employees with classroom and online delivery of GIS and GIS-related instruction. Online training will be hosted and delivered by the State's Learning Management System (LMS) and classroom training will be offered at various locations around the state.

[Learn More](#)

Classroom and online delivery
of GIS and GIS-related
instruction



Providing government transparency

Open Data

Maryland is committed to being open, transparent and providing data that is easy to find, is accessible, and is usable. The Maryland Department of Information Technology supports this commitment through delivering both geospatial and non-geospatial data through open data portals.

[Maryland's Open Data Portal](#) | [Maryland Council on Open Data](#) | [Dashboard Gallery](#)


About Us

- Maryland.gov
- Department of Information Technology
- MD iMAP
- Geographic Information Office
- DoIT Service Catalog
- Customer Service Promise

Need Help or Support? Contact Us
 📧 service.desk@maryland.gov



Tweets by @NCDMAF

 Server maintenance will cause a brief disruption of all hosted MD IMAP services on Tuesday (3/21) and Wednesday (3/22) from 7 - 11PM

MD IMAF @NDIMAF

SERVICE ALERT: The MD Geocoder will undergo maintenance from 4-5 pm. We will update once the maintenance is complete.

 Springer

MD IMAF ©MDMAF

UPDATED: MD IMAF Services Status

Embed

[View on Twitter](#)

Subcommittees

Discuss recommended establishment of two subcommittees: Administration and Outreach

- Determine how the Council can most effectively impact open data
- Council can determine how formal they want to be when taking on and starting to generate these subcommittees and the activities that will be pursued by these subcommittees
- Want to pursue in a way that is taken seriously, breaking them out, makes the Council more effective
- Council Chair, Mike Leahy, is now wanting to hear what the Council wants to do moving forward
- Doing things in parallel, Chair wants to help, as a whole, will also support, are looking to the Council to serve as a resource to be most effective
- Can we create a survey to help determine what interests there are in the community for data needs?
- Council Chair has some ideas on how to survey the team
- Consider tapping into the Sunlight Foundation, grab pieces of council or administering body models already in place, New York State has good models, Delaware, City of Detroit might be another opportunity, might not need to reinvent the wheel. Mike Morello reinforced that Maryland is already one of the top states for Open Data. We are always open to adopting best practices and lessons learned from others, but we are a top state so our research should not start at the beginner level.
- Resident focus groups in Montgomery County, which helped to reset the perspective of the direction of their program, help to understand what people are asking for, what they are getting, what they are not getting, how to cater to these different audiences
- Asked departments for volunteers, those who are engaged with the community, already established connections
- Establish a program / plan
- Move open data forward in the state of Maryland, we need to get into these questions, this is a governance committee
- Is anyone surprised that these questions are being asked?, can learn a lot from what others have done, this is a good time to bring ideas forward, can also email them to Mike, Mike or Julia
- Freshness issue, completeness review, questions from those who are submitting data that might want answered, are there ways that the portal can provide useful information back to the data submitters, incentive to the data providers to provide additional data, services that can be provided back to the data contributors
- Go along way and reach out to communities and will enforce the Governor's Customer Satisfaction initiative in the State of Maryland, this Council can help move this forward with this outreach to tax payers of the State
- Subcommittee to set out how you think things work and report back to the group, then proceed based on governance that the Council wants to utilize as the foundation and "constitution" for addressing questions?, there are so many opportunities to approach this, let's take the easy things
- Strong models for governance for committees like this, all have exposure outside of this committee, what the committee believes deserves to be formalized that has been done ad hoc to date, this will lend itself to other subcommittees are necessary, will discover particular interest in the committee that can be shared, what are the most important tasks
- Meta-structure of the organization is not formal at this time, what are the interests of the group
- Who are the individuals who will implement the program, do we need a Technical Committee that supports the program and the Council, this is a determination of the Council to establish
- The executive end has been unclear to date, not going to get anything moving quarterly, the Council needs to set forth what needs to be done in between meetings, the State can set the example of how we address the interagency questions and bringing that back to the Council, solve once and then allows for practical

implementation. Mike Morello again reinforced that we are already a top state for Open Data and that we continue to have a clear path / maturity model that demonstrates consistent progress and leadership. Mike also reinforced that the dialogue here is about next steps, not beginner level.

- Mont Co had more stringent marching orders, unlike the State of Maryland, take the Council framework and determine what the marching orders should be, take the experience and now reassessing next steps, centralized tasks DoIT group figuring out the ideal program should be, what challenges are coming up, but are not being addressed and require the assistance from the Council. Mike Morello again reinforced that the state is rigorous about its Open Data. It is the participants from Montgomery County's opinion that they have more stringent marching orders than the state.
- Montgomery County example: come up with a way to what is being published and why and post to the public, there was no practices at the time, now have score cards and a body that does the rating, the tiers of scores determine the levels of priority for publishing, implemented in 2013/14, finding the pain points and the spirit of the Council should be, POC for each department and met regularly to start putting things in place
- Annual report fleshed some of this out, set the path through the report
- Agencies connect with the Council, data coordinators at each of the agencies, ask the Council to determine the path through the subcommittees, most agencies are represented on the Council
- Administration, Outreach and Governance Subcommittees, survey for volunteers, take the additional step for prioritizing the tasks for 2017 for each committee, Research Committee to determine those resources from the other states, those with more established programs, report back to the Council
- Sunlight Foundation just released a playbook that should be of value, involvement with Bloomberg Foundation
- Discussed stats year over year of keywords searched by users on the portal. Showed increased usage of the portal year over year.

Activities and Action Items

- Discuss activities and action items of the subcommittees and the overall Council for 2017

opendata.maryland.gov Demo

- Creating a password protected portal for Open Data Council participants to use a resource.

Open Discussion